

PART 957—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION FROM CONTRACTING

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401.

SOURCE: 36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

§ 957.1 Authority for rules.

The rules in this part are issued by the Judicial Officer of the Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General (39 U.S.C. secs. 204, 401; chapter 3, section 7 of the Postal Service Purchasing Manual).

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 41 FR 19309, May 12, 1976; 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

§ 957.2 Scope of rules.

The rules in this part shall be applicable in all formal proceedings before the Postal Service pertaining to hearings initiated under chapter 3, section 7

of the Postal Service Procurement Manual.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 41 FR 19309, May 12, 1976; 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

§ 957.3 Definitions.

(a) the term Vice President means a Vice President with purchasing authority in the Postal Service or the Vice President's representative for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of chapter 3, section 7 of the Postal Service Purchasing Manual.

(b) The term *General Counsel* includes the General Counsel's authorized representative.

(c) The term *Judicial Officer* includes the Acting Judicial Officer.

(d) *Debarment* means, in general, an exclusion from Government contracting and subcontracting for a reasonable, specified period of time commensurate with the seriousness of the offense or failure, or the inadequacy of performance.

(e) *Suspension* means a disqualification from Government contracting and subcontracting for a temporary period of time because a concern or individual is suspected upon adequate evidence of engaging in criminal, fraudulent, or seriously improper conduct.

(f) *Respondent* means any individual, firm or other entity which has been served a written notice of proposed debarment pursuant to chapter 3, section 7 of the Postal Service Purchasing Manual.

(g) The Recorder means the Recorder of the United States Postal Service, 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22201-3078.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17217, June 29, 1973; 41 FR 19309, May 12, 1976; 63 FR 66051, Dec. 1, 1998]

§ 957.4 Initiation of debarment proceedings.

(a) A Vice President shall initiate a debarment proceeding by serving upon the proposed Respondent a written notice of proposed debarment in the manner hereinafter (§ 957.8(d)) provided for the service of all other papers.

(b) The notice shall state:

(1) That debarment is being considered;